



CREATING AND SCALING  
GREAT COMPANIES

June 27, 2017

The Honorable Ajit Pai  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th St. SW  
Washington, DC 20554

**Re: WC Docket No. 17-108. Restoring Internet Freedom.**

Dear Chairman Pai:

On behalf of CONNECT, I am writing to convey our support for the Restoring Internet Freedom Notice of Proposed Rulemaking Docket No. 17-108.

CONNECT is a premier innovation company accelerator in San Diego originally created as a part of UC San Diego in 1985. Although now a stand-alone accelerator, CONNECT has supported the formation of more than 3,000 companies over the last thirty years, providing San Diego entrepreneurs access to the people, capital, and technology resources they need most.

CONNECT has consistently held the position that an open Internet is an essential catalyst to innovation. An open Internet preserves the right for inventors to experiment with innovative content delivery methods and business models. For these reasons CONNECT opposed the 2015 reclassification of Internet service as a telecommunications service under Title II of the Communications Act, instead advocating for a “light touch” approach that had facilitated explosive technological advancement and radical shifts in consumer behavior.

CONNECT supports a balance between the ISPs and users that is determined in the open marketplace. Innovators must be able to rely on investment in broadband networks and internet infrastructure that moves ahead of their ideas. Prior to 2014, ISPs and innovators unquestionably validated that flexible regulation was a stimulus to explosive growth. Given these economic realities, we applaud your leadership in considering restoration of the “information services” classification to broadband internet access service and encourage you to work with Congress to craft that predictable regulatory framework needed for increased investment and avoid the continuous cycle of re-regulation and de-regulation.

In conclusion, I thank you for your leadership in this important issue and encourage the Commission to continue to propose forward-thinking policy that fosters innovation and incentivizes investment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Greg McKee".

Greg McKee  
CEO, CONNECT